

07 February 2003

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE INTEGRATION OF METRO SERVICES

My submission relates to "the integration of metro services with other public transport", namely bicycling.

I can no longer use Metro buses to get to work because I start at 0445, before the buses get warmed up.

I would however, like to ride my bicycle to work.

I don't want to ride home because a, it's too hot when I knock off, and b, it's all uphill!

What's to prevent the Metro installing bicycle racks on the buses? Would any seating be lost?

The Metro has put cycling racks on a special service catering for mountain bikers who want to zoom down from Ferntree, but this essentially caters for enthusiasts.

Why not cater for a much larger segment of the general public who would be willing to ride one way to work and catch the bus the other way? I reckon every second backyard shed or garage in Hobart has a bicycle in it, yet more could be done to encourage people to drag them out and use them. Ordinary people not dedicated cycling enthusiasts.

What has been done by government and councils so far to encourage us is the construction of bike tracks (an on-going and expanding process), changes in legislation to allow people to ride on footpaths, and physical changes to the footpaths themselves, to allow cyclists to seamlessly negotiate curbs. But not everyone lives near a bike path and many people just want to ride one way, for similar reasons to the ones I've expressed.

Installing bike racks would advance the improvements that have already been made, allow the Metro to promote itself as supporting Tasmanian healthy lifestyles and the work of the Premier's Physical Activities Council, and who knows, hopefully garner fares it currently misses.

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